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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

August 19, 2010

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

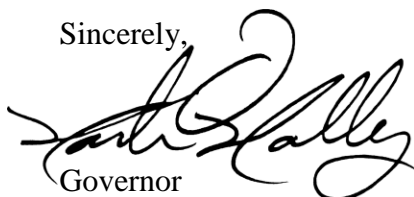
Please consider this letter to be a formal request for a Secretarial Disaster Designation for all Maryland counties impacted by dry weather and excessive heat in June, July and August of 2010.

Maryland weather stations tracked by Agricultural Weather Information Service for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) indicate significant precipitation deficits in this critical time for many of our major crops and pastures. Topsoil moisture as of August 8 was 83 percent "very short" or "short." Salisbury, on the Eastern Shore, is 10.98 inches below normal for precipitation. Hagerstown, in Western Maryland, is 8.12 inches below normal, and Mechanicsville in Southern Maryland is 7.6 inches short.

In its August 9 crop progress report for Maryland, NASS reported corn is nearly half very poor to poor condition. Soybeans are 29 percent "very poor" or "poor." The Maryland Farm Service Agency has indicated that early pre-harvest assessments have shown severe crop losses in some areas of the state.

I urge you to act quickly upon this request so that appropriate relief can be made available to eligible producers. Thank you in advance for your action on behalf of Maryland farmers.

Sincerely,


Governor